

## Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE AND  
U.S. ELECTIONS

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

1. IN WHAT SEEMS AN EFFORT TO ASSURE THE SOVIET PUBLIC THAT NEXT TUESDAY'S U.S. ELCTION RESULTS ARE NOT LIKELY TO AFFECT U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, PRAVDA (OCOTBER 31) RUNS BOTH A TASS SUMMARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S POSITIVE REMARKS ON THE OUTLOOK FOR U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND A FEATURE BY PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT STRELNIKOV ASSERTING THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS SHOULD BE SEEN PURELY AS A REFLECTION OF THE AMERICAN VOTER'S CONCERN WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES.

2. TASS STORY ON THE PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE REPORTS HIS STATEMNT THAT THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH BREZHNEV WERE "VERY CONSTRUCTIVE." TASS QUOTES HIM (REFERRING TO THE VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT) AS SAYING THE U.S. HOPES EACH STEP WILL MEAN FURTHER MOVEMENT FORWARD TOWARD THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS. THE STORY ALSO PICKS UP THE PRESIDENT'S APPEAL TO CONGRESS FOR SUPPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY AND QUOTES HIM AS SAYING THE CONGRESS MUST UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO DEVELOP FURTHER

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THE POLICY OF DETENTE.

3. STRENLIKOV STORY ON THE U.S. ELECTIONS CITES SEVERAL U.S. EXPERTS AS EXPECTING SUBSTANTIAL DEMOCRATIC GAINS IN THE CONGRESS. HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE BY IMPLICATION ASSURES SOVIET READERS THAT THE ELECTION SHOULD NOT BE READ AS A REFERENDUM ON REPUBLICAN FOREIGN POLICY BY ASSERTING THAT (1) OFF-YEAR ELECTION LOSSES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S PARTY ARE ROUTINE IN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM AND (2) THE BIG ISSUE IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS IS THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY, INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT. A GERASIMOY PIECE IN LITERARY GAZETTE OCTOBER 30 MAKES THE SAME POINTS. WE SEE ALL THREE PIECES, ADDITIONALLY, AS AN EFFORT TO DISSUADE SOVIET READERS FROM READING ANY DEMOCRATIC GAINS AS BOLSTERING THE SUPPORTERS OF SENATOR JACKSON -- FOR THE MOMENT ABOUT THE ONLY DEMOCRATIC HOUSEHOLD WORD HERE AFTER THE KENNEDY WITHDRAWAL FROM PRESIDENTIAL CONTENTION.  
STOESSEL

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